

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER NO LONGER REQUIRED ON CRASH REPORT FORM

Motor vehicle crash report forms no longer require that a driver's social security number be entered on the form, according to Public Safety Director Col. Mike Coppage. Act 325, enacted during the Special Session and signed into law by Gov. Bob Riley Aug. 5, amended Section 32-10-8 of the Code of Alabama 1975 to delete the requirement that law enforcement officers record the number on the traffic crash report form.

Coppage said Public Safety sought the change in response to increasing public concern about identity theft and the security of personal information, such as an individual's Social Security number.

"Removing this requirement from a crash report form will make it more difficult to acquire such personal information for fraudulent purposes," said Coppage.

The act also deleted the requirement that a social security number appear on the face of a commercial driver license. Coppage said inclusion of the social security number on the face of a regular driver license is not mandated.

Coppage said the Department of Public Safety was pleased to join in support of this legislation, and he expressed the department's appreciation to the governor and the Legislature for working to strengthen anti-identity theft measures in Alabama.

"Public Safety will continue to support measures to prevent identity theft and fraudulent use of personal information," said Coppage. He cited the state's new, more secure driver license and the screening process for driver license applicants as valuable tools in helping achieve this goal.

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